
The National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights

San Francisco 1984

April 5, 1984

Friends:

In less than four months, history will be made in San Francisco not just for the Democratic Party but for the Lesbian/Gay Community as well. The National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights is planned to coincide with the Democratic National Convention. Its purpose is to move Lesbian and Gay Issues to the center of the American political debate. We are writing to inform you of our plans and to solicit your opinions and support.

Monday, July 16th the leadership of the Democratic Party will gather in San Francisco to select a candidate for President and to debate the issues which confront our nation. In attendance at this national convention will be approximately 20,000 media representatives reporting this debate to hundreds of millions of people. (Media audience to between 500 million and 1 billion, according to Roz Wyman, Executive Director of the Democratic National Convention). We have an opportunity to raise the issue of the oppression of the Lesbian/Gay Community to these millions of people. The purpose of the National March is to raise these issues in a constructive and non-partisan manner, providing the best spokespeople of our community to speak to the nation. In this time of A.I.D.S. and widespread discrimination against our people in many areas including employment, housing, child custody, reproductive rights, immigration, and social services, it is imperative that we utilize this opportunity to speak out against the continuing second class citizenship of our people.

As you are aware, the Lesbian/Gay Rights movement, like many civil rights movements, has often used massive marches and rallies to make visible our concerns. Here in San Francisco this tradition is particularly strong with each Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day being attended by approximately 250,000 people and lesser events drawing thousands. We believe that tens of thousands of our people and their friends will participate in the National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights. We are confident that because of our community's experience with massive marches and rallies that we can provide proper attention to the many logistical details such as security, sound, toilets etc. which will necessarily accompany this event.

The Committee organizing the March has aggressively sought support within our local community and we have received widespread support. Endorsing groups include all four Lesbian/Gay Democratic Clubs of the S.F. Bay Area, (Alice B. Toklas, Harvey Milk, Stonewall, and East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Clubs), the Lesbian/Gay Labor Alliance, the Local National Women's Political Caucus, and the San Francisco County Democratic Central Committee. Elsewhere the March has been endorsed by the National Gay Task Force, the National Coalition of Black Gays, Black and White Men Together - International, the Arizona Gay Task Force, and the California Democratic Council.

Within the structure of the March Committee, supporting groups have two options: First, they can endorse, which allows us to use their name and if possible contact their members to solicit their personal support. Second, they can become Sponsoring Groups, which in addition to the above requires a donation of at least \$100 for groups of over 100

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people or \$50 for smaller groups. Only the Sponsoring Groups will be given the right to vote on the National March Demands and Speakers. If 10% or more of the Sponsoring Groups object to a specific demand or speaker, the National March Committee will automatically reconsider that demand or speaker. In this way we seek to include the concerns of those groups around the nation which support the March in the decision-making process.

Many of you reading this letter may have attended the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in 1979. Most of you have participated in your local Lesbian-/Gay Pride Celebrations. The event we are planning will be similar to those events with an important difference -- in San Francisco in July we will have the attention of the world. As you know, such actions require both volunteers and money. Here in San Francisco numerous volunteers are already working and funds are being raised. We urge those of you who are supportive of the National March to do what must be done to make any march and rally a success -- donate money or volunteer time.

Time is short to organize this event. We need your support and your participation to make the National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights as successful as possible. In the great political debate which is being waged across America, many issues -- economic, military, civil rights and environmental are being raised. In all the televised national debates in this or any Presidential election campaign, no mention has been made of the oppression of millions of Lesbian and Gay People. In the 1980 Democratic Convention a gay man was nominated for Vice President, but still the media and the nation did not address the concerns of our people. We of the National March Committee are determined that when the 1984 Convention comes to San Francisco, Lesbian and Gay Issues will be raised in such a powerful and positive manner the nation and the world must take note. Join us. Support the National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights - San Francisco - 1984.

For the Committee,

Mary Dunlap
Mary Dunlap

Co-Chairs

Paul Boneberg
Paul Boneberg

The National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights San Francisco 1984

April 5, 1984

Dear Sponsoring Organization,

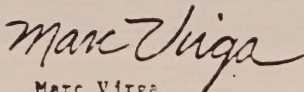
We are enclosing a copy of the tentative demands of the National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights - San Francisco 1984. We believe that these 12 areas are of vital concern to lesbian and gay people and must be addressed in a national forum. We realize that there are many issues of importance but we have tried to avoid a lengthy or complicated list of demands. Our hope is that the media (both straight and gay) will help make these issues known to the nation and the world.

We make these demands of the legislators across the country by bringing them to the American people. We also seek to educate and mobilize members of our own community. Although the demands are relatively short, each one will be accompanied by an explanatory paragraph giving greater detail and particular examples.

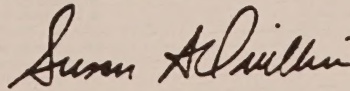
The list of specific demands is not finalized at this point. We would appreciate any comments you can give us as a sponsoring organization, both positive and negative, as well as suggestions for deletions or additions. If 10% or more of the sponsoring organizations have concerns with a demand, it will be reconsidered by the general membership. This March is conceived of as a National March -- we wish to reflect that in our demands. Your input is an essential component.

We would greatly appreciate your participation in finalizing these demands. Please make sure we have received your comments by May 1, 1984. There is much work to be done, and we are eager to begin publicizing the demands. Thank you for your support and assistance. We look forward to marching with you on Sunday, July 15.

In unity,



Marc Virga
Co-Chair, Demands Committee



Susan Quillin
Co-Chair, Demands Committee

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We demand full rights for Lesbian and Gay People, including:

- 1. Immediate and massive federal funding to end the AIDS Epidemic.**
- 2. An Executive Order prohibiting discrimination against Lesbians and Gay Men in the federal government, including the military and government contractors.**
- 3. Passage of the National Lesbian/Gay Rights Bill and broad non-discriminatory legislation at state and local levels.**
- 4. Enforcement of all existing Civil Rights Legislation in society as a whole, including within our own community.**
- 5. Passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.**
- 6. The right of women, regardless of sexual orientation or economic status to choose if and when to bear children, as well as the right to safe, legal and accessible abortion with freedom from forced sterilization.**
- 7. An end to violent attacks against Lesbian and Gay people, including police abuse and entrapment.**
- 8. Eliminate all immigration and naturalization restrictions and international human rights violations against Lesbian and Gay People.**
- 9. Repeal all "Sodomy and Solicitation" laws.**
- 10. Legal recognition equal to those afforded to marital relationships and economic benefits for Lesbian and Gay relationships.**
- 11. Eliminate all discrimination against Lesbians and Gay Men in child custody and visitation rights.**
- 12. Provide necessary social services for lesbian and gay youth, seniors, disabled, prisoners and low income people and increase, above prior levels, funding to federal programs cut by the Reagan administration.**

Activists Pitch the Press on Convention March

Momentum Grows for Massive Show & Tell

by George Mendenhall

Will Gay and Labor activists meet head-on on Market Street on Sunday, July 15 — the day before the Democratic National Convention at Moscone Center? Paul Boneberg, co-chair of the Lesbian/Gay march from the Castro, and Deputy Police Chief George Emil do not believe that will happen although both have asked for police permits to move their troops on Market Street at the same time.

Emil is convinced that the organizers of both marches have over-estimated their numbers. Both sides have claimed they will have 100,000 people in the street. Boneberg does not believe his projection is exaggerated. Over 300,000 participated in last year's Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade.

The police official believes that re-routing one of the marches to a South-of-Market street is not the answer. The solution, he believes, is in allowing both groups to use Market Street — but at different times. For example, the Gay march could leave 18th and Castro at 10 AM, moving down Market to Fourth Street and over to Moscone Center. At 1 PM, the Labor group could move up Market to Seventh Street and over to the Civic Center.

PRESS CONFERENCE

The National March for Lesbian/Gay Rights will culminate with a projected Noon to 5 PM presentation in the block in front

of the Moscone Center. It will feature speeches by national and local leaders, many from the Lesbian and Gay men's community. Music and comedy may be included, but the major thrust of the program will be aimed at presenting a national Lesbian/Gay Rights agenda.

In its first formal announcement of the march last week, the organizers met the press on the steps of Moscone Center. The event received considerable local media coverage and was carried on the first page of *The Washington Post*.

Co-chair Mary Dunlap told the media of the needs of Lesbians and Gay men in many areas — federal AIDS funding,



Convention March organizers line up in front of proposed protest target, the Moscone Center. (Photo: Rink)

immigration restrictions, employment and housing discrimination and the denial of partnership benefits and child custody. She urged, "Denying discrimination exists is pretending. Discrimination is not just in our minds." Ralph Payne of Stonewall Democrats added, "The question is not if there is discrimination but when will it end?"

Speakers stressed that the demonstration is not being set up to protest against the Democratic Party. Many of those on the podium are Democratic activists themselves.

Billy Jones, co-chair of the National Coalition of Black Gays, emphasized that a broad segment of people would participate "from all socio-economic and racial groups."

Ron Huberman, Milk Democrats, said "We are not going to protest against the Democrats but to speak up for human rights and let the Republicans know that we will be campaigning across the country for our candidates."

Dr. Tim Wolfred, president of the Community College Board, stressed, "The governor and the Republicans have demonstrated that they are not interested in joining our movement. We want them to take us seriously. We also want to show our support for what the Democrats have done for us — as well as make our demands clear."

Co-chairs Boneberg and Dunlap emphasized that Lesbian/Gay issues have not been discussed in the recent presidential candidate debates although Gary Hart, Jesse Jackson, and Walter Mondale have issued pro-Gay Rights statements. Boneberg stressed that the march is aimed at "creating an event that will bring about a public discussion, to bring our issues to the center of the nation's political debate."

Labor activist Howard Wallace insisted, "We have come out of the closet to stay. We are not going away. We are a significant number of voting people and if they want our votes they will have to raise our issues. We may polarize more people on our issues, but we will no longer be ignored."

CROWD CONTROL

How will the Democrats in the convention hall react? Will the event get out of control? Organizers told reporters they did not believe that the demonstration would hurt the Democratic Party and could be kept under control. They were

reminded that there had not been crowd incidents in the annual parades. Boneberg explained that monitors will be solicited to help with the situation.

Officer Emil later said he did not expect any serious police problems other than the logistics of moving people across town. He said thirty different groups have asked for parade permits but that he did not foresee difficulties in working out the details of who will march where. He explained that he plans to use only 70 officers to police the two major marches.

March enthusiasts are meeting twice each month. Committees planning the event are concerned with demands and issues, structure, media, fundraising and logistics. Volunteers may contact the organizers at (415) 552-4287.

A newly formed Gay Republican group in Dallas is beginning to make plans for a presence at the Republican National Convention in that city in August. Details are not yet available. It is not expected that the demonstration in Dallas will match the San Francisco event.



Billy Jones lays it out for the large press turnout. (Photo: Rink)

Gays plan big march at start of Democratic convention here

By Andrew Ross
Examiner staff writer

As leaders of the gay and lesbian community gathered outside Moscone Center to announce a national march on the eve of the Democratic National Convention, a sympathetic man with burly shoulders, a strawberry beard and black cowboy hat listened intently from a distance.

Mike Cole is his name. His business is big-game hunting, trout fishing and backpacking. He's in town for this week's International Sportsmen's Exposition at Moscone Center — site of July's presidential nominating convention.

Cole, who hails from a Montana outpost called Wisdom, said he's been aware of the problems facing gays for years. And he's not opposed to a national gay rights march.

"As long as they have the permits and are law-abiding, it doesn't bother me a bit," he said, standing later next to his collection of deer and antelope trophies inside the cavernous Moscone hall. "Gay and lesbian people have been around forever and ever, and they will continue to be here forever and ever."

"I live in Montana, but I'm more aware of what's going on in the world than 10 out of 12 people in San Francisco."

For sponsors of the July 15 National March for Lesbian/Gay Rights, Cole's remarks may offer hope to their campaign for recognition and respect.

Now, however, members of the homosexual community are banking on convention fever and a worldwide audience of up to 500 million to sway

public opinion with unparalleled success.

"It is the purpose of the National March of Gay/Lesbian Rights to move the issue of the oppression of gay and lesbian people to the center of the American political debate," said Paul Boneberg, president of the Stonewall Gay Democratic Club and the event's co-chair.

Attorney Mary Dunlap, also a co-chair, told yesterday's press gathering that the march will "reach out to the nation ... for anyone who has doubts that lesbians and gays will no longer be taken lightly, joked about, trivialized, and have their rights trampled upon in our political and legal system."

It will not be the only march in town that day, however. Northern California trade unionists are preparing for a major United Labor Parade up Market Street "to demonstrate union solidarity in opposition to the anti-worker, enrich-the-rich policies of the Reagan Administration," according to the California AFL-CIO newsletter.

Organizers of the labor march and rally said they are aiming for a larger turnout than they received for the October 1982 "Jobs For Justice" rally in San Francisco that drew a crowd of more than 70,000.

Gay organizers, meanwhile, predict that "tens of thousands" of gays and lesbians will join their march July 15, just three weeks after The City's annual Gay Freedom Day Parade — an event that has drawn nearly 250,000 participants.

"It's clear to me that occurring after the largest gay event in the world,

it's going to contribute to the size and success of this event," Boneberg said.

Details of the march, which will begin in the predominantly gay Castro District and travel northeast along Market Street and then south to the Moscone Center, are still being ironed out. Event organizers are seeking a parade permit, and approval from The City is expected within a few weeks.

Sponsors, meanwhile, contend the event will be peaceful and supportive of Democratic Party efforts on their behalf.

"The Democratic Party is a party that we have achieved many political gains through, and we are not going to be here to protest the Democratic Party," said Ron Huberman, vice president of the Harvey Milk Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club. "We are going to be here, in my opinion, to protest the Republican Party and indeed what (Gov.) Deukmejian has shown us in the last three weeks in disregard for basic human rights."

Huberman was referring to the governor's veto of Assembly Bill 1, a measure that would have outlawed job discrimination against gays. Deukmejian cited insufficient evidence of such discrimination.

Warned Huberman, "I want the Republicans watching this demonstration to know that we are a viable movement, that we number thousands all over the nation and that we will be voting for our rights."

But Howard Wallace, co-chair of the Lesbian/Gay Labor Alliance, said even the Democratic presidential contenders will be forced to pay closer attention to them after July 15.

NATIONAL MARCH FOR LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS - SAN FRANCISCO - 1984

☐ YES, include us as a sponsoring organization, with the right to vote on the list of demands and speakers.

Check enclosed for ☐ \$50 (organization under 100 members)

☐ \$100 (organization over 100 members)

☐ \$250 (if you can)

☐ \$500 (Angel!)

☐ \$ _____

☐ You may use the name of our organization as an endorsing organization and we enclose a contribution of \$ _____

Name of Organization _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Contact person _____

Telephone number (____) - _____ (other number:) (____) - _____

Your early contribution will enable us to do further outreach across the nation. Please make as large a donation as possible. Make check payable to "National March for Lesbian and Gay Rights" and mail to 2301 Market Street, San Francisco CA 94114.

